Mr. B. M. Peter *(Latin Christians-Mattancheri):* May I know, Sir, when they began to use Cochin receipt stamps in the Willingdon Island?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):* When they began stamping. Your question assumes that there was a time when the practice was otherwise.

Mr. B. M. Peter *(Latin Christians-Mattancheri):* They are still demanding to affix the British stamps.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):* That is not our information.

MUNICIPALITIES—HOUSE TAX REMISSION ON ACCOUNT OF POVERTY—SANCTION OF GOVERNMENT

119. Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the number of (1) prosecutions, (2) civil cases filed by the Mattancheri Municipality against house-owners within the Municipality who were exempted from house-tax in previous years on account of poverty, subsequent to the ruling by Government that the Municipality could not so exempt;

(*b*) would Government be pleased themselves to amend the Act to restore such power of exemption to the Municipalities;

(*c*) will Government be pleased to state the number of cases submitted to Government by Municipalities to grant exemptions from payment of house-tax since the above-said ruling?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) There was no prosecution or civil suit instituted by the Mattancheri Municipality against house-owners exempted from house-tax on account of poverty. There was also no such ruling by Government as stated in the question.

(*b*) Municipalities did not at any time possess the power of exemption. Under section 109 of the Municipal Act, the Municipal Council may, with the sanction of Government, grant the exemption.

(*c*) There were 5 cases of exemption from Mattancheri and one from Trichur, after a ruling given by Government that Municipal Councils cannot write off house-tax on the ground of poverty of the assessee.

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Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Is the Government aware that house taxes were written off on account of poverty previously?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Yes, we are aware of that. A question arose and a ruling was given.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know whether this answer was prepared after enquiry or without enquiry?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* After making enquiry.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Will the Government take it from me that there have been cases in the Munsiffs' Courts where the property of these people, nay the very houses where they live have been attached for non-payment of taxes and brought to auction?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* We will note it down and enquire.

POTTERIES EXPERT—ALLEGED ASSAULT ON A LABOURER

120. Mr. C. K. S. Moni *(Nominated):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether Government have received any complaint from the Pottery Labour Union, Chalakkudi, alleging that a labourer has been assaulted by the Pottery Expert;

(*b*) whether any enquiry has been made by the Labour Commissioner;

(*c*) if the answer is in the affirmative, (1) what was the nature of the enquiry (2) when was the enquiry conducted, (3) what was his findings, (4) whether the Labour Commissioner has taken any statements from the labourer who was alleged to have been assaulted or from the workmen who were on the spot when the incident occurred?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No complete enquiry was made, since the Union again represented that they had no further complaint about this.

(*c*) Does not arise in view of answer to (*b*).

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി: ആവലാതിയിൽ പറയുന്ന സംഗതി ശരിയാണെന്നു് അന്വേഷിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

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